

# Improving Multicultural Engagement in Clinical Research through Partnership with Federally Qualified Health Centers and Community Health Worker Programs

## Investigators

- Rebecca Hayes, MD - North Carolina Community Health Center Association
- Perla Nunes

## Project Summary

To achieve health equity, clinical trial research participation must include people from all different racial and ethnic communities. Federally Qualified Community Health Centers (FQHC) are the largest network of primary care providers serving underrepresented communities and rural areas in the United States. Research shows that health care providers must take part to ensure successful research participant recruitment. Additionally, FQHCs commonly utilize Community Health Workers (CHW) in these communities to increase engagement with the health care system. This research project looks to leverage the established infrastructure and trust at three diverse FQHCs in North Carolina. Community feedback will be obtained through focus group discussions and survey questionnaires. Findings will be used to inform the development of interactive curricula for both FQHC providers and CHWs to provide them with knowledge of clinical trial research participation and effective communication strategies to support clinical trial participation.

**Populations Served:** Black or African American, and Hispanic or Latino

### Goals/Aims:

- Identify clinical trial barriers and facilitators that FQHC providers, CHWs, and patients experience utilizing a mixed methods approach through focus groups and surveys.
- Create interactive curricula for FQHC care teams and CHWs to include a variety of topics regarding equity in clinical trials including but not limited to the history of clinical trials, understanding informed consent, ethical principles, opportunities to participate, importance of diversity in research participants, and benefits of clinical trial participation, among other topics. The curricula will be utilized to determine if education of key organizations and individuals serving the community can improve diversity in clinical trial research.

## Publications/Abstracts/Posters, etc.

- Manuscript in preparation.